

Message Text

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APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. HURWITZ
EA/P - MR. SMITH (SUBSTANCE)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST STORY ON U.S. GENERAL'S STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE ON SUBJECT WASHINGTON POST
STORY PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT'S MAY 19 NOON PRESS BRIEFING:

QUOTE QUESTION: WHAT CAN THE DEPARTMENT SAY ABOUT TODAY'S
WASHINGTON POST REPORT OF A U.S. GENERAL'S VIEW THAT WITH-
DRAWING OUR GROUND TROOPS FROM KOREA CAN LEAD TO WAR?

ANSWER: THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID THAT WE WILL BE WITHDRAWING
OUR GROUND COMBAT FORCES FROM KOREA OVER A FOUR TO FIVE
YEAR PERIOD AND THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE DONE IN WAYS WHICH
WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE SECURITY SITUATION ON THE
PENINSULA. WE WOULD BE KEEPING OUR AIR FORCE AND NAVAL
UNITS IN THE AREA AND IN KOREA, AND WE WILL BE CONTINUING
OUR EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THE COMBAT CAPABILITIES OF THE KOREAN
ARMED FORCES. THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID ALSO THAT WE WILL BE
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CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH THE KOREANS AND THE JAPANESE ON
THIS. AS YOU KNOW, THAT WILL BE THE MISSION OF UNDER
SECRETARY HABIB AND JCS GENERAL BROWN DURING THEIR TRIP TO
KOREA AND JAPAN NEXT WEEK.

QUESTION: HOW ABOUT YOUR VIEWS ABOUT THE GENERAL'S CLAIM

THAT THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW IS BASED ON OUTDATED
INTELLIGENCE DATA?

ANSWER: OBVIOUSLY, THE PRESIDENT IS FULLY AWARE OF ALL THE
FACTORS, INCLUDING THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INTELLIGENCE,
WHICH GO INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY.

QUESTION: ANY OTHER DETAILS OF THE HABIB/BROWN TRIP?

ANSWER: I HOPE TO HAVE SOME TOMORROW. UNQUOTE

2. ACTUAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BEING CARRIED IN WIRELESS
FILE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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